

houses and then through an area of woodland to reach Monk Meadow Dock. Go right round the dock (which is now a marina) and continue on the towpath under the new swing bridge past the remains of Llanthony Priory and the new Gloucestershire College to reach Gloucester Docks.

Cross over Llanthony Road and turn right over Llanthony Bridge. Take the next left down some steps to pass The Waterways Museum café - why not stop and have a drink or bite to eat in this area? Turn to the right and walk round all sides of the Barge Arm and continue on past the Mariner's Chapel. Cross the swing bridge in front of the entrance to Victoria Dock, turn left along the dockside passing Fosters on the Docks or stop off here for refreshments. Then follow the dockside round to the lock. Cross the lock gate and turn right past the Antiques Centre. On reaching Severn Road, cross carefully(!) onto the footbridge over the River Severn and back into Castle Meads car park.

**Purple Route** 2.0 ml / 3.2 km

(No stiles) Starting at Hempsted Cross and with Rea Lane behind you turn left towards the church, passing the Queen Victoria Jubilee oak tree. Go through the old metal kissing gate into the churchyard and follow the path to the right of the war memorial. Go through the kissing gate at the far end of the churchyard and turn left towards the next kissing gate. Follow the path between two fences with overhanging trees and you will come to a house (Bank Cottage) on your left. Proceed through the kissing gate and straight ahead into the field following the path downhill towards Lady's

Well. Just before you reach a gate ahead of you, turn left and cross the field to a kissing gate and a pond. Go through the gate and turn left. Follow the path keeping the hedge on your left. When you come to a waymark with a ditch in front turn right keeping the ditch on your left.

Follow the ditch until you pass through the gate at the corner of the field, cross the ditch and head right for the footbridge over Netheridge Brook. Cross the footbridge and turn left to follow the brook for 750 metres until you reach the River Severn flood protection bank (or bund). Go through the gate onto the bank. Turn left through a



Sunset over the River Severn.

gate and a kissing gate. Follow the flood bank for a further 750 metres before passing through another kissing gate. When you see a wrecked ship to your right, follow the flood bank that splits off to the left (follow the waymark), go through the next kissing gate and after 20 metres turn left off the flood bank. Follow the path running diagonally across the field. Pass through a gateway into the next field, turn right up the

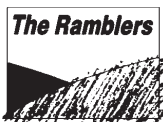
slope and right again at a line of trees to your left and head for a kissing gate under an old oak tree.

Go through the kissing gate and follow the path right then left (see waymark) up the slope with a fence on your right. Go through the next kissing gate and down the steps to the barrier onto Rea Lane. Wait behind the barrier until you are sure no traffic is coming (use the mirror to your right). Turn right across Rea Lane and left along a tarmac path to reach High View estate. Turn left along the pavement until you reach St Swithuns Road and turn left again to reach Hempsted Cross.

**Help with accessing this information**

[www.gloucester.gov.uk](http://www.gloucester.gov.uk)  
Council's translation unit:  
**01452 396909.**

For large print versions, or help to overcome other accessibility issues you have with this leaflet, phone **01452 396396.**

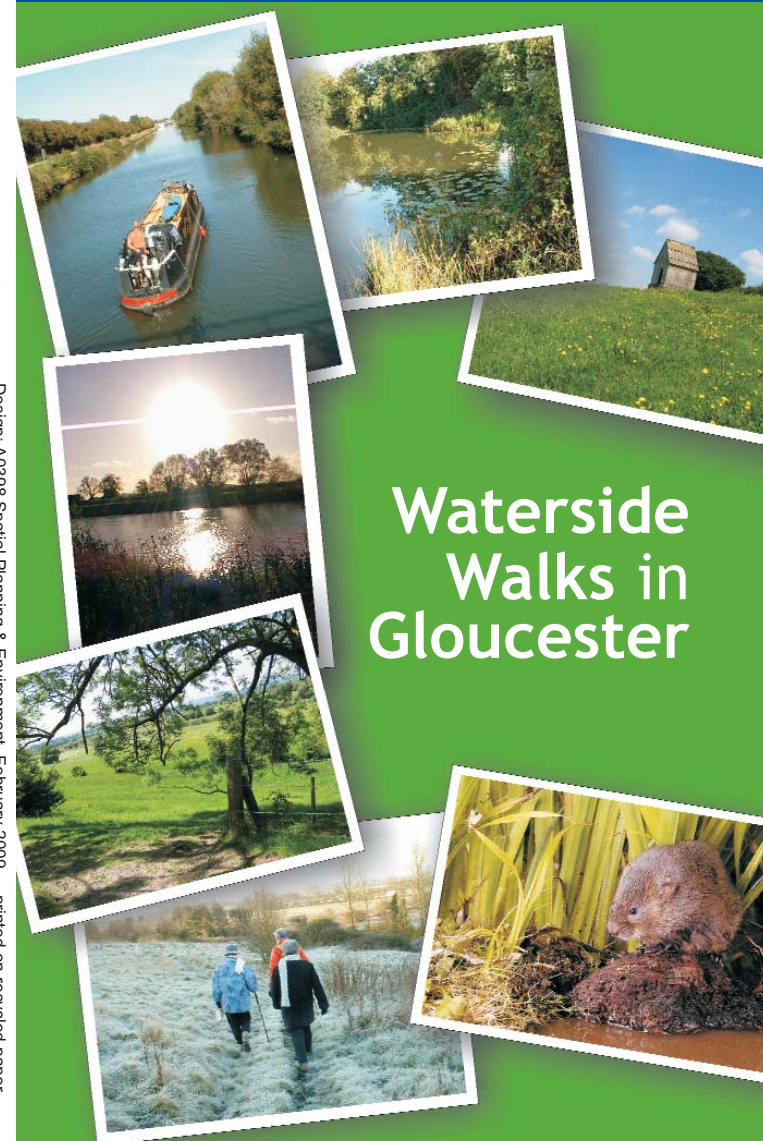


Spatial Planning & Environment  
Regeneration Strategy  
& Delivery  
Herbert Warehouse  
The Docks  
Gloucester GL1 2EQ

E [spatialplanning@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:spatialplanning@gloucester.gov.uk)  
Minicom 01452 396161  
[www.gloucester.gov.uk](http://www.gloucester.gov.uk)

T 01452 522232  
F 01452 396668

**Gloucester City Council**



**Waterside Walks in Gloucester**

Design: A0398 Spatial Planning & Environment, February 2009. Printed on recycled paper.



**GLOUCESTER**  
CITY COUNCIL





Water Vole  
(*Arvicola terrestris*).

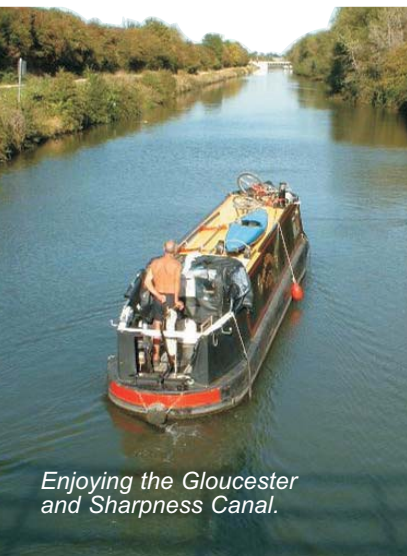
Between the River Severn and the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, from Gloucester all the way down to Arlingham lies an area that offers great opportunities for the quiet enjoyment of the countryside. Here recreation goes hand in hand with wildlife and impressive views - *This leaflet describes four walks, all enjoyable and varied, only requiring some comfortable walking boots or shoes and using the easy to follow map inside. Why not join in and make the most of what's on your doorstep. You may well be surprised!*

### Orange Route 2.75 ml / 4.4 km

(No stiles) Starting at Hempsted Cross, and with the cross and the church behind you, cross Rea Lane and turn right into High View. Follow the pavement round the estate to a path between houses 23 and 22. At the end of the path turn left along a field path, known locally as 'Blackberry Lane'. Continue straight ahead where the path leads onto Hempsted Lane, turn right and descend 'The Pitch', part of Hempsted Lane.

Cross over the SW Bypass (Secunda Way) using the pedestrian controlled lights and continue to the canal bridge. Turn right along the canal towpath. Follow the canal towpath along to Sims Bridge (you will pass under the swing bridge for the new road). Turn left here through the kissing gate and continue along Sims Lane with farmland on the left and woodland on the right hand side.

When you reach a gate and track on the right, go through the gate and follow the track until there is a gate straight ahead of you. Go through the gate turn to your right and proceed up Rea Lane, passing a row of Victorian cottages on your right and further on a large white house on your left. As you reach the right hand bend take the right hand bend take the footbridge over Black Ditch on your left. Look out for water voles on this section of ditch.



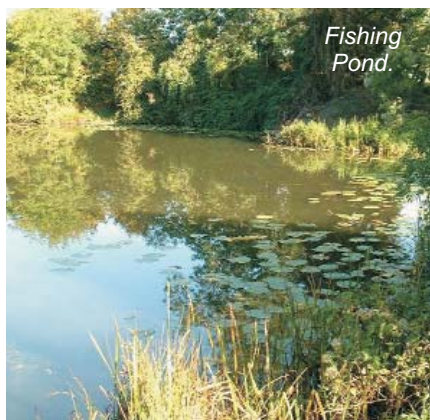
Enjoying the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal.

Go through the kissing gate and proceed straight ahead over the flood bank and take the path heading diagonally across the field. Go through the next gateway and follow the path along the base of the scarp slope. Go over the bridge with gates at both ends. Turn right and go through the next gate and proceed up to the top of Rectory Lane. Turn right and you're back at Hempsted Cross.

### Green Route 1.5 ml / 2.4 km

(1 stile) Starting at Rea Bridge car park, cross over

the bridge and turn right down the canal towpath to the next bridge, Sims Bridge. Turn left here through the kissing gate and continue along Sims Lane with farmland on the left and woodland on the right hand side. When you reach a gate and track on the right, go through the gate and follow the track until there is a gate straight ahead of you. (If you want a longer walk go through the gate, cross the road, climb the stile and follow the Severn Way signs - 0.7 ml, 1.13 km). Turn left before the gate and keeping the hedge on your right walk along the



Fishing Pond.

path until you eventually pass through a kissing gate and enter a meadow with buildings ahead.

Go through the next kissing gate, in the hedgerow on your right, and immediately left along the top of a bank, where you will have stunning

views of the River Severn and May Hill. You will then come to 2 benches which are an excellent spot to stop and enjoy the views of the Severn Vale and Minsterworth Ham. Go through the ramblers gate which takes you into a field with a hedge on your right.

Walk on and pass through the next kissing gate where you will find a lovely fishing pond (in the summer covered in water lilies) and another bench for quiet contemplation. Go over the footbridge through another ramblers gate. Climb the three steps, turn right and cross the field, climb the stile to the right of a row of houses and turn left onto Elmore Lane West - here you can enjoy views of the Cotswolds. Be careful of the traffic on this section of road. Follow the lane back to Rea Bridge and the car park on the other side of the bridge.

### Yellow Route 5.5 ml / 8.9 km

(4 stiles) Starting at Castle Meads car park (Saturday and Sunday parking only), take the footpath from the back of the car park going right underneath the roadbridge, turn immediately right up the ramp to the bridge level (signposted to Quedgeley) and at the top turn right along the path and cross over the river. Take the second turning right into Hemmingsdale Road and go through the gate at the end of the road (you will hear/see Llanthony Weir to your right), and follow the flood

defence bank (the Severn Way) for 500 metres until you reach a stile. Climb over the stile and you will pass some scrubby wetland on your left which is full of birdlife.

The next field on the left is a Gloucester Wildlife Trust designated Key Wildlife Site stuffed full of wildflowers including corky fruited water dropwort. The footpath bends to the left following the river as you proceed through a gateway into the next field.

At this point the east and west channels of the River Severn come together at the Lower Parting. Go through the gateway and follow the River Severn keeping the fence on your left hand side. After about 1 kilometre climb two stiles and walk through a sheep grazing area. After a further kilometre cross another stile and carry on along the flood bank. Watch out for brown hare on this section of path. Just in front of the next gate on the flood bank go through a gate immediately to your left and follow Netheridge Brook.

Go through the next gate on your right, cross a footbridge, and follow the path through a second gate. Cross the next two fields (see waymark) to the bottom of Rectory Lane (head for a red bricked house). Go through the kissing gate and climb Rectory Lane, turn right along St Swithuns Road. At the mini-roundabout turn left down Hempsted Lane. At the Village Hall, on your left, cross the road and take the tarmac path downhill to The Gallops. Continue descending the hill to the traffic lights, cross Secunda Way and continue ahead down Kaskelot Way. Turn left and follow the

towpath, past canal-side



Church Farm Ham in winter.



Otter (*Lutra lutra*).

# Waterside Walks in Gloucester

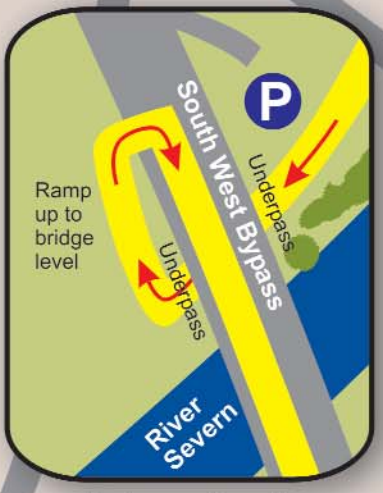


Start **YELLOW** Path  
See enlarged path route map

Start **PURPLE** Path

Start **ORANGE** Path

Start **GREEN** Path



Enlarged path route map

- Orange route
  - Green route
  - Severn Way (part of)
  - Purple route
  - Yellow route
  - Other footpaths
  - Steep route
  - Car park
  - Stile
  - Bench
  - Gate
  - Footbridge
  - Kissing gate
  - Urban area
  - Rural area
  - Hedges and trees
- © This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorized reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence no 100019169. (2009).

**Travelling by Bus**

A bus service is available to/from the city centre to the start or near the start of all the walks shown, and the nearest bus stops are indicated on the map.

*(Bus service providers are Stagecoach and Mike's Travel).*

